

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /082 W
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R 111619Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3302

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1773

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL OAU CAPITALS AND CAPE TOWN FOR INFO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, NI, US

SUBJ: GARBA REMARKS ON ARRIVAL FROM U.S.; CALLS FOR TIGHTER
NATIONAL SECURITY

1. ON RETURN FEB 9 FROM U.S. TRIP, MEA COMMISSIONER TOLD
NEWSMEN AT IKEJA AIRPORT THAT FMG'S "REVOLUTIONARY FOREIGN POLICY"
INCLUDING ITS STAND ON ANGOLA HAS INCREASED COUNTRY'S
"DETRACTORS" AND HAS EXPOSED NIGERIA TO "INTRIGUES OF ENEMIES."
GOVERNMENT MUST THEREFORE TIGHTEN SECURITY; PEOPLE MUST
ASSIST FMG IN THIS EFFORT BY BEING MORE SECURITY CONSCIOUS.

2. GARBA REAFFIRMED THAT UP TO NOW NO NIGERIAN SOLDIER WAS
FIGHTING IN ANGOLA BUT THAT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, FMG WOULD
ACT PROMPTLY.

3. COMMENTING ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY, GARBA
SAID U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS REMAINED CORDIAL, DESPITE DIFFERENCES
OVER ANGOLA. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SECRETARY'S PROPOSED
TRIP TO AFRICA WOULD AFFORD OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. TO ADOPT A
"MEANINGFUL AFRICAN POLICY."

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4. COMMENT: COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS ON TIGHTENING NATIONAL SECURITY AGAINST FOREIGN ENEMIES ARE MOST GENERALLY XENOPHOBIC UTTERANCE WE HAVE HEARD FROM TOP RANKING FMG OFFICIAL AND THEY ARE ESPECIALLY REMARKABLE COMING FROM GARBA. IN PART IT MAY REPRESENT ATTEMPT IMPROVE HIS IMAGE WITH PUBLIC AND FMG COLLEAGUES IN ORDER RE-ESTABLISH HIS CLAIM TO BEING MAJOR INFLUENCE IN FORMULATION NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY. GARBA'S REMARKS ARE SOMEWHAT INIMICAL TO THE U.S., COMING AS THEY DO IMMEDIATELY ON HIS RETURN FROM U.S. ALREADY, AT LEAST ONE LOCAL NEWSPAPER HAS LINKED HIS COMMENTS TO RECENT AMINU KANO STATEMENT THAT CIA HAS 3,000 AGENTS IN COUNTRY.
EASUM

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